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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FM AMCONSUL HONGKONG
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUASTP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
RUALOT/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HAWAII
RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK
STATE GRNC
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Authority State ltr 6/1/78
By [illegible], NARS, Date 8/8/78

ACTION PRIORITY DEPT 167 INFO SAIGON 51 VIENTIANE 19
TAIPEI 29 TOKYO 36 CINCPAC UNN USUN 3 FROM HKONG AUG 10, 9:30 M

CINCPAC FOR POLAD.

PEIPING OVER WEEKEND BROADENED SCALE OF MASS RALLIES DEMONSTRATI
SUPPORT FOR DRV AND STRENGTHENED AUG 6 PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR IT
BY IMPLYING SPECIFIC MEASURES OF ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING

1. FOLLOWING FRIDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS IN PEIPING INVOLVING HALF
MILLION PEOPLE (CONGENTEL 156), DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTEDLY
CFN 167 51 19 29 36 3 10 9:30 DRV 6 1 156

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CONTINUED ON WIDENING SCALE WITH ONE MILLION ON SATURDAY AND TWO
MILLION ON SUNDAY PARTICIPATING IN PARADES, RALLIES AND MEETINGS
IN ADDITION PEIPING DEMONSTRATIONS, SIMILAR ACTIVITIES HAVE
SPREAD THROUGHOUT CHINA WITH DEMONSTRATIONS INVOLVING HALF
MILLION REPORTED IN SHANGHAI, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND IN CANTON
AND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND IN CHUNGKING. NEARLY ALL MAJOR
CITIES REPORTED AS HAVING HAD DEMONSTRATIONS.

2. OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WAS LIAO CHENG-CHIH'S SPEECH AT
AUG 9 RALLY OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND IN OPEN-AIR WORKERS'
STADIUM AT WHICH CHOU EN-LAI, LU TING-YI, LO JUI-CHINGUND
OTHER LEADERS WERE REPORTED AS IN ATTENDANCE. THREE MAJOR
ASPECTS CHARACTERIZED LIAO'S SPEECH:

A. FORTHCOMING TANGIBLE MEASURES OF SUPPORT FOR DRV MORE STRONGL
IMPLIED. NCNA REPORTS LIAO AS HAVING STATED THAT "THE CHINESE

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PEOPLE WERE DETERMINED BY PRACTICAL DEEDS TO VOLUNTEER AID TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE AGAINST US AGGRESSI AND IN DEFENCE OF THEIR MOTHERLAND." IN ADDITION, LIAO REPEATS CPR GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OF AUG 6 THAT, AS RESULT US ACTION, "ALL COUNTRIES UPHOLDING GENEVA AGREEMENTS HAVE GAINED RIGHT TO ASSIST DRV IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST AGGRESSION," AND IN CONCLUSIO HE ASSERTS THAT "CHINESE PEOPLE ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT SUPINELY TOLERATE RUTHLESS US IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION AGAINST THEIR CFN SHANGHAI CANTON CHUNGKING 2 LIAO CHENG-CHIH'S 9 CHOU EN-LAI LU TING-YI LO JUI-CHING LIAO'S A DRV NCNA LIAO US LIAO CPR 6 US DRV NOT US

OPERATORS NOTE: UNDERLINE IN PARA 2A IMI 2A FIRST SENTENCE, AND WORDS (PRACTICAL DEEDS) (VOLUNTEER AID) SECOND SENTENCE (CONGEN UNDERLINING)

BROTHERS, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE."

B) US WILL BE PUNISHED. LIAO STATED, "SINCE YOU HAVE COMMITTED CAPITAL CRIME OF AGGRESSION, YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE DUE PUNISHMENT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ESCAPE IT."

C) "MYTH" OF SECOND TONKIN GULF INCIDENT. LIAO DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO FURTHERING CHICOM-DRV CLAIM THAT SECOND TORPEDO BOAT ATTACK ON AUG 4 IS "FABRICATION" AND PRETEXT FOR ATTACKING DRV. HE CLAIMS US LEADERS' "INCONSISTENT MUMBLING" AS TO NUMBER OF PT BOATS INVOLVED AND HOUR WHEN ATTACK MADE HAS EXPOSED THEIR "LIE" AS DESIGNED TO EXECUTE "PRE-MEDITATED PLAN" FOR EXTENSION OF "WAR OF AGGRESSION."

3. PEOPLE DAILY EDITORIAL OF AUG 9, LATEST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT OF FOUR CONSECUTIVE EDITORIALS ON VIETNAMESE SITUATION TAKES SAME LINE AS LIAO CHENG-CHIH'S SPEECH, STRESSING IN EVEN MORE CONCRETE TERMS THEME THAT THE MATTER IS NOT YET SETTLED AND RETRIBUTION WILL BE FORTHCOMING. AMPLIFYING AUG 6 STATEMENT, EDITORIAL STATES, "BY ITS ACTS OF AGGRESSION, US IMPERIALISM HAS GIVEN COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES THAT UPHOLD GENEVA AGREEMENTS AND AL PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES THE RIGHT TO (BEGIN UNDERLINE) TAKE ACTION (END UNDERLINE) IN RENDERING SUPPORT IN (BEGIN UNDERLINE) EVERY POSSIBLE FORM (END UNDERLINE) FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO RESIST THE US AGGRESSORS." (OUR CFN B US LIAO C TONKIN LIAO DRV 4 DRV US PT 3 9 LIAO CHENG-CHIH' NOT 6 US US

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PAGE FOUR RUMJDH 22 C O N F I D E N T I A L
UNDERLINING) ALSO PARALLELING LIAO, EDITORIAL MAKES IMPLIED THREAT OF FUTURE RETALIATION FOR US ACTION AGAINST DRV, WARNIN "US AGGRESSORS, DON'T YOU REJOICE TOO SOON. DON'T THINK YOU C GET AWAY WITH YOUR SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE DRV." (LITERAL TRANSLATION OF CHINESE SUMMARY IN HONG KONG COMMUNIST WEN WEI PAO READS, "US AGGRESSORS, DON'T THINK YOU CAN CARRY OUT A SU ATTACK ON THE DRV AND THE MATTER WILL BE CONCLUDED.") EDITORI CONCLUDES, "FROM NOW ON THE INITIATIVE WILL BE IN THE HANDS O VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLES OF THE WHOLE WORLD WHO SUPP THEM. IT IS YOU AND NOT US WHO WILL BE DEFEATED."

4. PEIPING TA KUNG PAO AUGUST 10 EDITORIAL REITERATES PEOPLE'S DAILY STATEMENTS IN MORE CONCISE TERMS STATING, "WE ARE DETERMINED TO SUPPORT WITH CONCRETE ACTION THE VIETNAMESE PEO JUST STRUGGLE TO RESIST US AGGRESSION AND DEFEND THEIR MOTHER LAND." EDITORIAL ALSO STRESSES ALERTNESS TO EVENTS SAYING, "WI MUST MOBILIZE OUR PEOPLE STILL FURTHER, HEIGHTEN OUR VIGILANC AND BE READY FOR WHATEVER EVENTUALITIES AND GIVE ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR JUST STRUGGLE OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AGAINST US AGGRESSION."

5. PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL AUGUST 8 IS DEVOTED TO ATTACK ON EFFORTS TO BRING AUGUST 4 TONKIN GULF INCIDENT BEFORE UNSC, DENOUNCING IT AS DEVICE "PROVIDE LEGAL CAMOUFLAGE FOR ACTS OF CFN LIAO US DRV US DRV WEN WEI PAO US DRV NOW NOT 4 TA KUNG P 10 US US 5 8 US 4 TONKIN UNSC

PAGE FIVE RUMJDH 22 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
AGGRESSION." EDITORIAL STRESSES THAT "UNITED NATIONS HAS NO RIGHT WHATSOEVER TO INTERFERE IN INDO-CHINA. A PEACEFUL SETTLE MENT FOR INDO-CHINA CAN ONLY BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE CHANNEL OF GENEVA ACCORD." IN CLEARLY ANTI-SOVIET SENSE, NCNA REPORTED SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S AUGUST 7 MESSAGE TO DRV FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSING SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO UNSC FOR CONSIDERATION; NCNA IN ANOTHER DISPATCH HAS STRESSED CONGRUENC OF US AND SOVIET EFFORTS TO BRING MATTER BEFORE UNSC.

6. HONG KONG COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS WEN WEI PAO AND TA KUNG PAO IN COMMENTARIES TODAY BOTH DISPARAGE US ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PATF WILL BE SUSPENDED IN TONKIN GULF, WITH WEN WEI PAO TAKING POSITION THAT THIS MOVE PROMPTED BY US DESIRE "RELAX OPPOSITIC OF PEOPLE OF WORLD" RATHER THAN DESIRE TO RELAX TENSIONS.

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COMMENT: LIAO CHENG-CHIHS STATEMENTS re US PEOPLE'S DAILY AUG 9 EDITORIAL GO FURTHER THAN ANYTHING THUS FAR IN COMMITTING PEIPING TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF DRV IN SOME CONCRETE WAY. THEY SEEM DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO REMEDY FAILURE OF AUG 6 STATEMENT TO ANNOUNCE ANY PROMPT OR SPECIFIC MEASURES OF ASSISTANCE, TO PREVENT US FROM ASSUMING IT CAN MAKE FURTHER MOVES AGAINST DRV WITH IMPUNITY, AND POSSIBLE TO PREPARE POPULATION FOR MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN DRV SECURITY IN FUTURE.

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